

Amendment
Serial No. 10/088,497
Attorney Docket No. 020181

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 as follows:

In order to solve the aforementioned problem, the fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 1~~ is characterized by comprising a fuel cell for generating electricity by supplying a fuel pole with fuel gas and an oxidant pole with air, a washing liquid tank, disposed in a supply passage of the air, for reserving washing liquid, and a means for replacing the washing liquid reserved in the washing liquid tank.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 2~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the washing liquid is water, or a washing liquid of organic compound.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 2 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 3~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the washing liquid tanks are disposed in plurality in series on the air supply passage, and comprise a means for replacing periodically at least washing liquid reserved in a washing liquid tank arranged upstream.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 as follows:

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The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 4~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 3~~, wherein a plurality of washing liquid tanks reserving the same washing liquid are disposed differently from each other in the liquid level, and a lower washing liquid tank is supplied with washing liquid from an upper washing liquid tank by the level difference.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 5~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the water to be supplied to a washing liquid tank using water as washing liquid, is a water treated water.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 6~~ is characterized by comprising a fuel cell for generating electricity by supplying a fuel pole with fuel gas and an oxidant pole with air, a water tank for reserving cooling water of the fuel cell, a washing liquid tank, disposed in a supply passage of the air, for reserving washing liquid, and a means for replacing the washing liquid reserved in the washing liquid tank.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 7~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 1 or 6~~, wherein the means for replacing washing liquid is operated every fixed time.

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Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 8~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 1 or 6~~, wherein the means for replacing washing liquid is operated according to the dirtiness of washing liquid.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 9~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 6~~, comprising a means for supplying the washing tank with water of the watertank.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 10~~ is the fuel cell apparatus ~~according to claim 6~~, wherein the air is supplied to the oxidant pole, after impurities in the air in the washing liquid tank is removed, and the air is humidified in the water tank.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 8 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 1~~, wherein the oxidant pole is supplied with air washed with washing liquid in the washing liquid tank disposed in the air supply passage, and the washing liquid is replaced, allows to supply the oxidant pole with always clean air not containing NOx, SOx, cyanides, sulfates, aromatics, ammonium, or the other harmful substances exerting bad effects on the cell characteristics and has an remarkable effect of improving the reliability, life and durability, as the alteration of electrolyte based on the chemical reaction between harmful

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substance and electrolyte and the decrease of oxygen absorbing ability of the electrode catalyst can be prevented, and the decrease of cell characteristics caused by them can be avoided.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 18 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 2~~ allows to remove impurities in the air by using water or washing liquid of organic compound as washing liquid.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 20 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 3~~ allows to plan a further air purification by using a plurality of stages of washing liquid tank for cleaning the air, and furthermore, allows to remove a variety of impurities, particularly, by a combination of washing liquid tank using water and a washing liquid tank using washing liquid of organic compound and, in addition, in case of using such a plurality of stages of washing liquid tank, the replacement of washing liquid becomes effective only by executing at least for the washing liquid tank arranged upstream.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 4~~ has a remarkable effect of allowing to supply easily the lower washing liquid tank with water from the upper washing liquid tank, as a plurality of washing liquid tanks reserving the same washing liquid are disposed differently from each other in the liquid level, and the lower washing liquid tank is supplied with washing liquid from an upper washing liquid tank by the level difference.

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Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 7 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 5~~ has a remarkable effect of allowing to remove harmful substances more effectively, as the washing liquid tank is supplied with a water from which dust or the other impurities are removed, a water from which harmful substances are eliminated, or a pure water obtained by the water treatment.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 6~~ wherein the oxidant pole is supplied with air washed with washing liquid in the washing liquid tank disposed in the air supply passage, and the washing liquid is replaced, allows to supply the oxidant pole with always clean air not containing NO_x, SO_x, cyanides, sulfates, aromatics, ammonium, or the other harmful substances exerting bad effects on the cell characteristics and has an remarkable effect of improving the reliability, life and durability, as the alteration of electrolyte based on the chemical reaction between harmful substance and electrolyte and the decrease of oxygen absorbing ability of the electrode catalyst can be prevented, and the decrease of cell characteristics caused by them can be avoided and furthermore, cooling the water tank using the cooling water of the water tank, and also being able to be used for humidification of reaction air to be supplied to the oxidant pole, because it comprises a water tank for reserving cooling water of the fuel cell.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 25 as follows:

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The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 7~~ wherein the means for replacing washing liquid is operated every fixed time has a remarkable effect of always supplying the fuel cell with a clean air free from harmful substances exerting bad effects to the cell characteristics by replacing the washing liquid every fixed time.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 3 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 8~~ wherein the means for replacing washing liquid is operated according to the dirtiness of washing liquid has a remarkable effect of always supplying the fuel cell with a clean air free from harmful substances exerting bad effects to the cell characteristics by replacing the washing liquid before the dirt of washing liquid attains a bad level, and further improving the reliability.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 9 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 9~~ comprising a means for supplying the washing tank with water of the water tank has a remarkable effect of using effectively water of the water tank, and allowing to intend cost down, miniaturization, or the others.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 13 as follows:

The fuel cell apparatus ~~of claim 10~~, wherein the air is supplied to the oxidant pole, after impurities in the air in the washing liquid tank is removed, and the air is humidified in the water tank, has a remarkable effect of always supplying the fuel cell with a clean air free from harmful

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substances exerting bad effects to the cell characteristics and furthermore improving ion electric conductivity by humidifying the solid polymer electrolyte film with moisture contained in the air to be supplied to the oxidant pole.